HELD AT BAY BY J.J.J.!

UNTOLD TALES of SPIDER-MAN®

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MARVEL® SPIDER-MAN GROUP

Bitten by a radioactive spider, high school student **Peter Parker** gained the spider's powers, and soon became the costumed crimefighter the entire world would one day come to know as **Spider-Man!** In the early days of his career, when his amazing powers were still new to him, the teenaged Spider-Man struggled to learn about himself and his abilities, while trying to lead a **normal life!** It would **not** be easy...

STAN LEE PRESENTS... UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN!

The Measure of a Man

REC

THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE SPACEMEN, AND FROM THE REPORTS I'VE SEEN, THEY'VE BEEN SPOTTED AROUND MANHATTAN THE LAST FEW DAYS.

AS FOR WHY THEY'RE FIGHTING SPIDER-MAN, OR HOW THAT SAFE GOT ON THE ROOF --

BLAST! STAND STILL, YOU CAVORTING FREAK!

Y'KNOW, GANTRY, IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER --

-- I'D BE STARTING TO THINK THAT MAYBE --

-- JUST MAAAYY BE --

-- I HAVE NO IDEA. I JUST GOT HERE.

AN UNTOLD TALE OF TRIUMPH & TRAGEDY, BY:

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I'M LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN JAMESON, ASTRONAUT -- ON ASSIGNMENT FROM N.A.S.A. MY MAIN INTEREST HERE IS SPIDER-MAN.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO RADIO THE POLICE, CANYON -- THOUGH I DOUBT THEY'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT HERE BEFORE THIS IS OVER.

I TRY TO KEEEP THE CAMERA FOCUSED ON HIM, BUT IT'S NOT EASY.

CHECK. YOU STILL TAPING, SIR?

I'M STILL TAPING.

WRAK

-- YOU DON'T LIKE ME!

IT'S BREATHTAKING TO WATCH HIM, THOUGH.

THERE'S DANGER ALL AROUND, BUT HE NEVER FREEZES UP, NEVER STOPS MOVING --

ONLY ONE PROBLEM, SATELLITE! IT'S KINDA HARD TO HIT A GUY --

-- WHO'S GOT A SPIDER-SENSE THAT LETS HIM KNOW WHERE YOUR BLASTS ARE AIMED PRACTICALLY BEFORE YOU DO!

Ah, BUT WHAT IF YOUR SPIDER-SENSE IS OVER-LOADED -- PRESENTED WITH DANGER FROM SO MANY DIFFRENT DIRECTIONS --

-- LIKE HE'S PLAYING HOPSCOTCH IN A MINEFIELD --

Oh, WELL DONE, GANTRY! LEADING WITH YOUR CHIN LIKE THAT SET HIM UP PERFECTLY FOR MY LASER-BLASTS!

-- THAT YOU CAN'T TELL WHERE THE NEXT ATTACK'S COMING FROM? WHAT DO YOU DO THEN?!

KRAM

UHH!

WELL, ORBIT, MOSTLY I GET MY *KEISTER* HANDED TO ME, BUT I'M *WORKING* ON IT --!

Aw, CRIPES -- WHAT *NOW*?!

YOU FORGOT ABOUT *ME*, SPIDER-MAN!

MY ENTIRE BODY'S *AIRLESS, LIFELESS SPACE*, AS YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT -- FROM THE *INSIDE!*

DO IT, *VACUUM!* THIS ROOF'S TOO *GRIMY* FOR HIM TO STICK TO FOR LONG!

Huh --?

I'VE GOT A *BETTER* IDEA, GANTRY! YOU LIKE THE CONCEPT SO MUCH --

AND HE THINKS LIKE LIGHTNING -- EVEN IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS --

THWIPP

-- TAKING A DEADLY DANGER AND TURNING IT TO HIS ADVANTAGE!

SHUT IT *DOWN*, VACUUM! SHUT IT *DOWN!*

--YOU GO!

I'M *TRYING!* BUT IT'S NOT EASY --

-- WHEN YOU'RE *HALFWAY* IN --!

ENOUGH!

SATELLITE! THE *ROOF!*

TRULY AMAZING.

THAT'S WHAT I *LIKE* ABOUT YOU, FEARLESS LEADER! WHEN THINGS AREN'T GOING YOUR *WAY* --

-- YOU GET *CHILDISHLY DESTRUCTIVE!*

Oh, NO! HIS *LASERS* --

CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM

KRASH

THEY ALL DISAPPEAR IN THE **DUST** AND **RUBBLE**, BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE SPIDER-MAN'S DEAD.

AND SURE ENOUGH, WHEN THE AIR **CLEARS** --

MANAGED TO DUCK UNDER A ***SUPPORT BEAM*** -- MISSED THE ***WORST*** OF IT!

BUT WOULDN'T YOU ***KNOW*** IT -- NO ***SIGN*** OF THE SPACE-MEN!

-- HE'S BRINGING THE WHOLE THING DOWN!

VERRY PERCEPTIVE, WEB-HEAD!

THE SAFE IS LATER FOUND WITH THE HINGES POPPED AND THE CASH **MISSING** -- BUT THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL WHO **DID** IT.

THE **SMART** MONEY WOULD BE ON SPIDER-MAN --

-- BUT THE SMART MONEY'S BEEN WRONG **BEFORE.**

SHOULD WE FOLLOW? HE MIGHT SWITCH BACK TO HIS **NORMAL IDENTITY** --

THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE **HERE** FOR, CANYON.

LET THE MAN KEEP HIS **SECRETS.**

THE NEXT MORNING, I CHECK IN WITH MY FATHER AND TELL HIM THE **NEWS.** HIS REACTION, REGRETFULLY, IS **PREDICTABLE...**

DAILY BUGLE

THIS IS **BETRAYAL,** JOHN! PURE, UNVARNISHED **BETRAYAL!**

I'VE JUST PRINTED A **FRONT-PAGE** STORY ACCUSING THAT WEB-HEADED WEASEL OF **ROBBERY** --

-- AND YOU TELL ME THAT **N.A.S.A.'S** CONSIDERING HIM AS A POTENTIAL **ASTRONAUT?!**

I TOLD YOU A **WEEK** AGO, DAD -- HIS REFLEXES, STRENGTH AND AGILITY MAKE HIM AN **IDEAL CANDIDATE,** AND WE'RE CONSIDERING HIM SERIOUSLY.

HE COULD CARRY OUT AN ASTRONAUT'S DUTIES BETTER THAN ANY NORMAL HUMAN COULD.

MY FATHER'S HATRED FOR SPIDER-MAN SEEMED TO START WHEN SPIDER-MAN GOT MORE PRESS THAN I DID, JUST BEFORE MY FIRST SPACEFLIGHT --

BAH! I WAS SURE YOU'D COME TO YOUR **SENSES!** HE'S A **CRIMINAL!**

I **PROVED** IT IN THE BUGLE A **DOZEN** TIMES OVER!

THERE'S NO HARD **EVIDENCE** OF THAT!

WITH ALL DUE **RESPECT,** SIR, EDITORIALS DON'T CONSTITUTE PROOF OF --

YOU'RE MAKING ME A **LAUGHINGSTOCK,** JOHN!

DAD, N.A.S.A. CAN'T JUST TAKE YOUR **WORD** FOR --

*-- AND DEEPENED WHEN THE FLIGHT WENT **AWRY** -- AND SPIDER-MAN SAVED MY LIFE.*

STILL, I'D HAVE THOUGHT IT WOULD HAVE FADED BY NOW, OR I'D NEVER HAVE SUGGESTED SPIDER-MAN TO N.A.S.A...

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY *FAMILY PRIDE*, SON? YOU'RE A *JAMESON* --

-- THE GLORY BELONGS TO *YOU*, NOT THAT *MASKED MENACE!*

IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF *GLORY*, DAD. THE JOB SHOULD GO TO WHOEVER'S BEST *SUITED* FOR IT.

RIGHT NOW, ALL I'M DOING IS *OBSERVING* SPIDER-MAN -- SO WE CAN DECIDE WHETHER TO APPROACH HIM. BUT PHYSICAL ABILITIES ASIDE --

-- SPIDER-MAN'S DEMONSTRATED *CONSIDERABLE COURAGE* -- CAPTURING DANGEROUS CRIMINALS -- RISKING HIS LIFE FOR OTHERS --

-HARRUMPH!- SO YOU KNOW ALL *ABOUT* HIM, DO YOU?

NO -- WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HIS *BACKGROUND* OR *EDUCATION*, OF COURSE. BUT I'VE BEEN GIVING IT A LOT OF *THOUGHT* --

-- TRYING TO IMAGINE WHAT SPIDER-MAN MUST BE *LIKE* UNDER THAT MASK. I'VE GOT TO FIGURE HE LIVES *ALONE* --

"-- HE'S TOO INDEPENDENT, TOO SELF-ASSURED TO DO OTHERWISE..."

PETER! YOU'RE NOT WEARING YOUR *GLASSES!*

THEY GOT *BROKEN*, AUNT MAY -- BUT IT'S OKAY. I DON'T *NEED* THEM ANY-MORE -- I CAN SEE JUST FINE!

NOW, PETER -- YOUR EYESIGHT IS NOTHING TO *TRIFLE* WITH. YOU DON'T WANT TO RISK PERMANENT DAMAGE BY --

I'VE GOT TO GET TO *SCHOOL*, AUNT MAY! CAN WE TALK ABOUT THIS WHEN I GET *HOME?*

BUT HE'S SUCH AN OUTGOING, *GENIAL* PERSON, JOKING ALL THE TIME --

-- HE MUST HAVE A LOT OF *FRIENDS*...

HEY, *PETE!* HOW'S IT GOIN', PAL? YOU WANT A RIDE TO SCHOOL?

Huh?

WELL, Uh, Gee -- *SURE*, FLASH! THANKS FOR AS --

THEN TAKE A BUS!!

VROOM

WHAT -- ?

WHY, THAT *ROTTEN*, NO-GOOD -- !!

THAT WAS KINDA *MEAN*, FLASH--

AW, SO WHAT? SINCE WHEN DO *YOU* CARE ABOUT "*PUNY*" PARKER, TINY?

I'LL SHOW THAT *MICROCEPHALIC MORON!* HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO HE'S *MESSING* WITH!

A BALL OF WEBBING IN HIS *TAILPIPE'LL* TAKE THE WIND OUT OF HIS SAILS--!

AND ABOVE ALL, HE'S KNOWN AS AN *ATHLETE.*

I THINK ABOUT THE THINGS HE CAN DO-- THOSE AMAZING FEATS OF *STRENGTH* AND *AGILITY* --

-- AND I'VE GOT TO CONCLUDE THAT WHILE HE MAY BE ABLE TO KEEP HIS *IDENTITY* A SECRET...

"...THERE'S *NO WAY HE COULD* KEEP THOSE *ABILITIES* COMPLETELY TO HIMSELF --"

AW, WHO AM I *KIDDING?* AS SATISFYING AS IT WOULD BE TO TWIST FLASH THOMPSON'S *TAIL* --

-- I CAN'T *RISK* IT! AUNT MAY'S SO FRAGILE THESE DAYS --

-- IF ANYONE EVER EXPOSED MY IDENTITY AS SPIDER-MAN, THE SHOCK OF IT MIGHT *KILL* HER! I'VE GOT TO STAY MEEK, UNASSUMING PETER PARKER --

-- NO MATTER HOW HARD IT GETS.

-:Hmph:- SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE WORKED UP QUITE THE *PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE,* SON! BUT I BET MY PRESSES SPIDER-MAN'S *NOTHING* LIKE --

MR. JAMESON! FREDERICK FOSWELL JUST CALLED FROM CITY HALL!

IT'S THE *SPACEMEN* --

" -- THEY'RE HOLDING A *PRESS CONFERENCE!*"

GREETINGS, GENTLEMEN AND LADIES OF THE PRESS!

WE'VE BEEN IN YOUR FAIR CITY LONG ENOUGH SO THAT WE REALLY *SHOULD* HAVE MADE A MORE FORMAL INTRODUCTION BEFORE *NOW!*

WE'RE *THE SPACEMEN,* AND AND WE'RE HERE TO ANSWER *ANY* QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE ABOUT US!

YOU *SEE,* JOHN? *THIS* IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT --

-- HONESTY, *INTEGRITY!*

I'M STILL **SKEPTICAL** -- BUT THEN, I'M ONLY HERE AS AN OBSERVER --

-- SO I CONTINUE TO **OBSERVE** --

WE MUST REMAIN MASKED, FOR *SECURITY* REASONS, BUT WE CAN TELL YOU THIS MUCH ABOUT WHO WE ARE --

-- WE WERE PART OF A *SECRET* GOVERNMENT *TASK FORCE* --

"--THAT LAUNCHED A VERY SPECIAL *SATELLITE* INTO ORBIT AROUND EARTH!

" AN *INDUCTION* SATELLITE --

"--THAT ABSORBED *MASSIVE QUANTITIES* OF RADIATION FROM THE *COSMIC RAY BELT* -- AND TRANSMITTED IT DOWN TO EARTH --

"-- WHERE WE *SUBJECTED* OURSELVES TO THE DANGEROUS RADIATION, JUST AS THE WORLD-FAMOUS *FANTASTIC FOUR* DID --

"--ALLOWING IT TO *CHANGE* US -- TO IMBUE US WITH *SUPER-POWERS* --

THE LIFE THAT

"-- IN ORDER TO BE OF *BETTER SERVICE* TO OUR GREAT *NATION!*"

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE ARE *NOT* VIGILANTES --

-- WE'RE HERE TO DO WHAT OUR GOVERNMENT AND CITIZENRY *WANT* OF US --

-- STARTING WITH OUR *FIRST MISSION*, WHICH SOME OF YOU HAVE ALREADY SEEN US WORKING ON --

-- THE *APPREHENSION* OF THE *NOTORIOUS SPIDER-MAN!*

NOW *THIS* IS WHAT SUPER HEROES SHOULD BE!

I'M NOT SO *SURE*, DAD -- I DON'T KNOW OF ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY THESE GUYS ARE CONNECTED TO --

CLAP CLA-CLAPCLAP

-- AND YOU'D FIGURE *N.A.S.A.* WOULD KNOW OF ANY *SATELLITE LAUNCH* --!

PFAH! THEY SAID IT WAS A *SECRET*, DIDN'T THEY?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN -- THE BUGLE'S GOING TO GET BEHIND THE SPACEMEN! WE'LL MAKE SPIDER-MAN LOOK SO BAD --

-- N.A.S.A WOULDN'T HIRE HIM TO BE SO MUCH AS A *JANITOR!* AND *YOU'LL* REMAIN AMERICA'S TOP ASTRONAUT!

DAD -- I WISH YOU *WOULDN'T* --

"-- EVEN IF *YOU* WON'T."

-- A HEARTY CHEER FOR DOING WHAT *NEEDS* TO BE DONE -- RIDDING THE CITY OF *CRAVEN OPPORTUNISTS* WHO TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS --

DAILY BUGLE

BUGLE PUBLISHER HAILS SPACEMEN

TRUST YOUR *OLD MAN*, SON! *I'LL* WATCH OUT FOR YOUR BEST INTERESTS --

-- SOME *COOKIES*, PETER! A GROWING BOY NEEDS TO TAKE A BREAK EVERY NOW AND --

PETER! YOU LOOK SO *TENSE!* DO YOU *FEEL* WELL -- ?

IT'S OKAY, AUNT MAY. IT'S JUST A... SUDDEN *HEADACHE* --

-- AND YOU KNOW WHO I'M TALKING ABOUT --

BUGLE

SURE ENOUGH, IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, SPIDER-MAN AND THE SPACEMEN CLASH SEVERAL MORE TIMES --

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS SPIDER-MAN!

"GET AWAY WITH"? OF ALL THE COCKAMAMIE --

OOF!

DAILY BUGLE
NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

SPACEMEN INTERRUPT BANK ROBBERY

SPIDER-MAN FLEES SCENE, ALONG WITH $30,000 CASH

-- AND THE BUGLE WEIGHS IN ENERGETICALLY ON THE SPACEMEN'S SIDE.

STILL --

WAKK

DAILY BUGLE
NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

SPACEMEN SPIDER-MAN EXCHANGE BLOWS ON WALL STREET

$250,000 IN NEGOTIABLE SECURITIES MISSING

-- IT'S CLEAR THAT SOMEONE'S USING THE BATTLES TO MASK A SERIES OF ROBBERIES. WITNESSES GIVE CONFUSED, CONTRADICTORY ACCOUNTS --

-- BUT I HAVE TO WONDER --

KLOW

DAILY BUGLE
NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

SPIDER-MAN SHOWS TRUE COLORS AT GALLERY OPENING

$50,000 IN CHARITY RECEIPTS STOLEN

-- ARE THE SPACEMEN RUNNING A SCAM --

THWIP

DON'T MOVE A MUSCLE, SPIDER-MAN -- WE'RE TAKING YOU IN!

Oh, I'M SURE YOU'D LIKE THAT, GANTRY --

-- OR EXPOSING ONE? COULD SPIDER-MAN'S PREVIOUS HEROICS HAVE JUST BEEN A COVER -- A FLASHY DISTRACTION FROM HIS TRUE ACTIVITIES -- ?

-- BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO *DISAPPOINT* Y --

-- *Huh?*

YOU'RE NOT GOIN' *ANYWHERE*, Y'*STINKIN' THIEF!*

YEAH!

GRAB 'IM!

SHOW HIM WHAT WE DO TO NO-GOOD VIGILANTE CRUMB-BUMS IN THIS TOWN!

WHAK POW WHUD

OW! UKH!

HEY -- *UFF!* -- THANKS FOR THE FREE DEMONSTRATION! NOW LET ME GIVE *YOU* ONE IN RETURN --

-- THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SPIDER-POWERED MUSCLES PUSH AGAINST THE SIDE-WALK *FULL FORCE!*

HE'S GETTING AWAY!

AND AS A PARTING TIP, WHEN YOU GET HOME -- YOU MIGHT WANT TO LOOK UP *"VIGILANTE"* AND *"LYNCH MOB"* IN YOUR HANDY HOME DICTIONARIES!

Mr. GANTRY --

-- WOULD YOU *SIGN* --

-- FOR MY *SISTER'S* KID --

*STILL, WHY DOES SPIDER-MAN KEEP **ESCAPING** FROM THESE FIGHTS? IF THE SPACEMEN HAVE TIME TO **SIGN AUTOGRAPHS** --*

-:Hmf:- THIS IS A PIECE OF *CAKE!*

WHAT'D YA SAY, Mr. GANTRY?

Oh, NOTHING... NOTHING...

*-- SURELY THEY HAVE TIME TO CHASE A SUSPECTED **CRIMINAL**..?*

THAT EVENING...

SENSATIONAL, PARKER! THESE PICTURES OF THE PUBLIC TURNING ON SPIDER-MAN ARE *IDEAL!*

I *PARTICULARLY* LIKE THIS ONE OF THAT MASKED MENACE GETTING SOCKED IN THE FACE BY A *LITTLE OLD LADY*! IN FACT -- I MAY HAVE IT *FRAMED!*

Uh... *GREAT*, Mr. JAMESON! AND AS LONG AS YOU'RE IN A *GOOD MOOD* --

-- I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK IF BETTY BRANT COULD HAVE THE *EVENING OFF* THIS FRIDAY. SHE AND I HAVE BEEN PLANNING TO --

DON'T SAY ANOTHER *WORD*, MY BOY! I KNOW WHAT *YOUNG LOVE'S LIKE!*

Er... YOU *DO?*

I'M FEELING SO GOOD, I'LL NOT ONLY GIVE MISS BRANT THE NIGHT *OFF*, BUT I'LL GET YOU INTO THE *EVENT OF THE SEASON* --

-- MY LATEST *ANTI-SPIDER-MAN LECTURE!*

BRING YOUR *CAMERA* -- YOU CAN TAKE PICTURES FOR OUR COVERAGE OF THE EVENT, AND I'LL DEDUCT THE PRICE OF THE TICKETS FROM YOUR *CHECK!*

IT'S FUNNY -- PARKER HASN'T TURNED UP ON ANY WITNESS LISTS, BUT HE'S TAKEN PICTURES OF ALL THESE BATTLES. HE'S A PRETTY RESOURCEFUL KID.

NOW DON'T BOTHER TO THANK ME -- JUST GIVE YOUR GIRL THE HAPPY NEWS.

YOU'RE ALL HEART, Mr. JAMESON...

PERHAPS I SHOULD TALK TO HIM -- SEE IF HE KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT SPIDER-MAN THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL...

YOU LOOK VERY HANDSOME WITHOUT YOUR GLASSES, PETER!

THANKS, BETTY -- BUT YOU MIGHT CHANGE YOUR MIND WHEN YOU HEAR WHERE WE'RE GOING *FRIDAY NIGHT --!*

SO, JOHN -- GIVEN UP THIS FOOLISH *SPIDER-MAN* THING YET?

DAD, I'M UNDER *ORDERS* -- TO OBSERVE AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION--

HAH! WELL, WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT'S *NEXT*, SON --

"-- WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT'S NEXT!"

A TICKER-TAPE PARADE FOR THE SPACEMEN -- RIGHT DOWN FIFTH AVENUE.

WELL, ONE THING I'VE GOT TO SAY FOR MY FATHER -- HE DOESN'T DO THINGS BY HALVES!

The SPACEMEN

HEY, GWEN -- YOU WANT TO GET A SODA AFTER?

SURE, HARRY!

I'M CONCERNED ABOUT ALL THIS ADULATION FOR THE SPACEMEN, JONAH. YOU'RE WHIPPING THE PUBLIC INTO A FRENZY --

--FOR THE SPACEMEN AND AGAINST SPIDER-MAN!

AND WHILE MY RESEARCH INTO SPIDER-MAN IS INCONCLUSIVE AS YET, IT DOESN'T CONFIRM THAT THERE'S BEEN ANY CRIMINAL ACTIVITY BY HIM --

RESEARCH, SCHMESEARCH, CAPTAIN STACY! THE PEOPLE LOVE THIS --

The SPACEMEN

-- AND I DON'T SEE YOUR PRECIOUS *SPIDER-MAN* SHOWING UP HERE TO *OBJECT*, DO YOU?

HE'S PROBABLY AT HOME, HIDING UNDER THE *BED* -- *IF* HE'S HUMAN ENOUGH TO EVEN *SLEEP* IN A BED, THAT IS!

THAT'S *RIDICULOUS*, DAD!

NOBODY COULD TAKE THE KIND OF *SMEAR CAMPAIGN* YOU'VE BEEN DISHING OUT! THE WAY YOU'VE TURNED THE CITY *AGAINST* SPIDER-MAN --

--HE'D HAVE TO BE THE KIND OF MAN WHO DOESN'T CARE *AT ALL* ABOUT PUBLIC OPINION TO SHOW UP HERE!

HE'D HAVE TO BE *COMPLETELY FOCUSED* ON DOING WHAT HE THINKS IS *RIGHT* --

Hmph! I DON'T *SEE PARKER* IN THE CROWD!

IF HE DOESN'T GET *PICTURES* OF THIS TRIUMPH, I'LL --

-- NO MATTER WHAT THE REPERC --

-- Uh, DAD --?

IT -- IT CAN'T BE --!

NICE DAY FOR A *PARADE*, GUYS! CAN *ANYONE* JOIN IN --

-- OR IS THIS FOR CROOKS ONLY?!

SPIDER-MAN!

THAT *DOES* IT, YOU WALL-CRAWLING SCOUNDREL -- YOU'VE THUMBED YOUR NOSE AT THE LAW *LONG ENOUGH!* THIS TIME YOU'RE GOING TO J --

WHAK

--UHH!

SKIP THE *POSTURING*, GANTRY!

YOU NEVER ONCE *WONDERED* HOW I KEPT FINDING YOU WHENEVER YOU'D PULL A *ROBBERY*, DID YOU?

YOU MEAN HOW *WE* FOUND *YOU!*

SURE, SURE!

I WORKED UP A DEVICE TO TAP INTO YOUR SCRAMBLED *RADIO SIGNALS!* SO NOT ONLY DO I KNOW YOU PLANNED TO USE THIS PARADE AS A *GETAWAY* --

I *ALSO* KNOW WHERE YOU STASHED THE *MONEY!*

WHAT!?

YOU *CAN'T* -- I MEAN --

-- THE PUBLIC WILL NEVER *BELIEVE* SUCH LIES!

SPACEMEN --

PLANS!

YOU *TELL* 'IM, GANTRY!

CLOBBER THAT *WEB-SLINGIN' BUM!*

GIVE 'IM ONE FER *ME!*

PLAN S! THAT MEANS I'LL GET HIM!

NO, SATELLITE -- I'LL GET HIM!

AH-AH, KIDDIES -- YOU'RE FORGETTING ABOUT MY *SPIDER-SENSE!*

NEITHER OF YOU IS --

-- GETTING... ME...

AW, NUTS! YOU USED MY SPIDER-SENSE TO HERD ME -- RIGHT INTO VACUUM!

WE SURE DID! SWALLOW US UP, BIG V!

I'VE REALLY GOT TO STOP EXPLAINING HOW MY POWERS WORK TO THE BAD GUYS.

GOOD ADVICE, SPIDER-MAN -- NOW LET ME TELL YOU HOW MINE WORK!

I FLY BY CREATING AN ORBITAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MYSELF AND ANY OBJECT I CHOOSE -- IN EFFECT, ORBITING LIKE A SPACE-CRAFT!

BUT I CAN USE MY POWER ON THINGS OTHER THAN MYSELF! LIKE YOU FOR INSTANCE -- I'VE JUST PUT YOU IN ORBIT --

" --AROUND SATELLITE."

FINDING IT HARD TO BREATHE, SPIDER-MAN? I'M NOT SURPRISED --

--CONSIDERING VACUUM'S GOT NO AIR INSIDE HIM!

VERY WELL DONE, ORBIT! NOW ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS WAIT FOR SPIDER-MAN TO SUFFOCATE -- AND THEN WE TURN HIS BODY OVER TO THE POLICE!

NO TRIAL -- NO TESTIMONY -- THE CASE IS CLOSED, THE MONEY NEVER TURNS UP --

-- AND NOBODY'LL EVER FIGURE IT OUT!

HEY!

DON'T START SPENDING THE MONEY *YET*, YOU TWO -- HE'S STILL *FIGHTING!*

HE'S SNAGGED ME WITH HIS *WEB* --

-- AND THAT MEANS EVERY TIME HE ORBITS AROUND ME, IT GETS *SHORTER* --

-- AND HE GOES *FASTER!*

DO SOME-THING, GUYS! IF HE GOES *FAST* ENOUGH --

-- HE'LL REACH *ESCAPE VELOCITY!*

UFF!

Ahh! THAT'S MUSIC TO MY EARS! SOUND DOESN'T *TRAVEL* IN A VACUUM -- BUT IT SURE IS SWEET *OUT HERE!*

KRASH

Huh?

LOOK!

GANTRY! ORBIT! *NO!* YOU HIT THE *FLOAT* --!

THE PARADE FLOAT -- THE PAPIER-MACHE MOON *MOUNTAIN* --

IT WAS STUFFED WITH *CASH* --!

THEN -- THE *SPACE-MEN* --

VACUUM! LOOK ALIVE, YOU SKINNY GEEK! SUCK ALL THIS CASH IN BEFORE THE CROWD GETS IT!

WE DIDN'T GO TO THE TROUBLE OF STEALING IT SO THESE STUMBLEBUMS COULD HAVE IT!

Huh? YOU HEAR THAT?!

UH-oh!

THEN -- THEY'RE THE CROOKS!

IT WAS THEM ALL ALONG -- NOT SPIDER-MAN!

PERRY MASON COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT BETTER! AT LEAST -- NOT IN A SKIN-TIGHT COSTUME, HE COULDN'T!

THANKS FOR THE CONFESSION, SATELLITE!

KRAT

UHHH!

WE KNOW YOUR BODY'S IMPERVIOUS TO BULLETS, VACUUM, BUT YOUR FACE LOOKS PRETTY NORMAL! TELL ME --

-- CAN YOU TAKE A BULLET TO THE HEAD?!

Uh --

AND ON THAT CHEERY NOTE, I BID YOU ALL A FOND ADIEU, WITH JUST ONE FINAL QUESTION FOR THE PEANUT GALLERY!

HEY, JONAH! HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE WRONG -- AGAIN?!

IT TURNED OUT THE SPACEMEN HAD LIED ABOUT HOW THEY GOT THEIR POWERS --

-- BUT BY THE TIME ALL THE DIFFERENT FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCIES HAD **DISAVOWED** THEM, IT WAS ALL OVER.

DAD? I WANTED TO ***SEE*** YOU, BEFORE I HEAD BACK. I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW --

-- N.A.S.A'S ***SCRAPPING*** THE IDEA OF SPIDER-MAN AS AN ASTRONAUT.

THEY WERE ALL **EX- SPACE-PROGRAM** TRAINEES -- WASHOUTS WHO'D USED THEIR INSIDER KNOWLEDGE TO STEAL SOME **METEOR SAMPLES** I BROUGHT BACK FROM A SPACE MISSION.

DESPITE HIS ***ABILITIES***, PART OF ANY SPACE MISSION IS THE DATA WE GET ON HOW ***SPACE TRAVEL*** AFFECTS ***HUMANS*** --

-- AND NONE OF THE DATA WE'D GET ON ***SPIDER-MAN*** WOULD BE APPLICABLE TO ANYONE ELSE.

HE'S JUST TOO FAR ***OUTSIDE*** THE NORM.

WHEN THEY UNSEALED THE **STERILE CONTAINERS**, THE METEORS CRACKED, GIVING OFF AN **ALIEN GAS** THAT GAVE THEM THEIR POWERS.

THEY **COULD** HAVE BEEN THE HEROES THEY **PRETENDED** TO BE -- USED THEIR ABILITIES TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY, AS THEY ONCE **WANTED** TO.

HE ***CAN'T*** BE A HERO... HE CAN'T BE ***THAT*** NOBLE...

DAD? DAD?

I'M ***GOING*** NOW, DAD...

IF ***HE'S*** A HERO, THEN WHAT DOES THAT MAKE ***ME***...

...CIVIC LEADER... UPSTANDING CITIZEN... ***HAH***...

NO... HE ***MUST*** BE A CRIMINAL... HE ***MUST*** HAVE AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE...

INSTEAD THEY LET THEMSELVES BE DRIVEN BY ANGER AND **JEALOUSY**, UNTIL IT WAS TOO **LATE**.

J. JONAH JAMESON • PUBLISHER

THEY COULD HAVE BEEN **HEROES**...